

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD**

Cal Expo Vagabond Executive Inn
2030 Arden Way
"Governor's Room"
Sacramento, CA 95825

**January 22, 2004
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Members Present

Bruce Gerratt, PhD, Chairperson
Alison Grimes, AuD
Marcia Raggio, PhD

Committee Members Absent

Vivian Shannon, MA

Board Members Present

Sherry Washington, MA
James Till, PhD
Rebecca Binge, MA

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Candace Raney, Staff Analyst
Lori Pinson, Staff Analyst
George Ritter, Staff Counsel

Guests Present

Gail Ternes, Legislative Liaison California
Academy of Audiology

I. Call to Order

Mr. Gerratt called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that prior to discussing the courses listed on the agenda, she wanted to update the Committee on the new website posting advertising for qualified subject matter experts to volunteer their services to the Board and review CPD course offerings.

Members of the Committee inquired about the subject matter expert's role and reporting relationship to the Board.

Ms. Del Mugnaio explained that, prior to a legislative change to authorize the Board to pre-approve CPD courses, the volunteer would be charged with reviewing those courses for which staff is unable to determine. Ultimately, the volunteer will be responsible for all provider applications, course reviews, and future CPD audit responses. She stated that the Committee will retain the review of all appeals where the volunteer has recommended denying a course or a provider. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the volunteer would serve at the pleasure of the Board and could be dismissed without cause or rotated with other volunteers as the Board deemed necessary.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that she is working with the Senate Business and Professions Committee on the legislative proposal to authorize the Board to pre-approve all CPD course offerings.

III. Continuing Professional Development Course Review

A. Assess Follow-up Information Provided for Course , “How Does Your Engine Run?”

Mr. Gerratt introduced the first continuing professional development (CPD) course that was agendaized for review.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the course review is a follow-up from the last CPD Committee meeting wherein the course “How Does Your Engine Run” was presented to the Committee. However, because the course materials provided to the Committee at the October 23, 2003 meeting were vague, the Committee could not determine whether the course was relevant to the practice of speech-language pathology. The Committee requested that Ms. Del Mugnaio provide additional information about the course at the January Committee meeting. She also stated that she solicited the assistance from Ms. Washington to identify portions of the course material that may assist the Committee with their decision.

Ms. Washington explained that she researched the course materials to identify any evidence-based research demonstrating the clinical relevance of sensory integration and searched the internet to find information on sensory integration for self regulation. She found that most of the information involved the use of sensory integration for individuals with autism.

She stated that the highlighted information provided to the Committee was found in the course materials which includes newsletters and anecdotal summaries of the efficacy of sensory integration as used predominantly in psychology and occupational therapy. She further stated that she did not find peer-reviewed journal references regarding the therapy and its effectiveness for treating speech and language disorders. She also stated that the materials strongly suggest that occupational therapists assist speech-language pathologists in using sensory integration techniques.

The Committee discussed ways sensory integration is used to help individuals process multi-levels of stimulation occurring in their environment.

Ms. Washington stated that a speech-language pathologist may use sensory integration techniques to help an autistic child attend to the speech and language therapy, however, the therapy itself would not be a speech and language goal.

The Committee determined that, while sensory integration can be used during speech and language therapy, the particular course in question "How Does Your Engine Run," offered minimal content on applying sensory integration to the practice of speech-language pathology. Furthermore, information contained in the course materials provided further evidence that the course was not designed to specifically address the practice of speech-language pathology as the literature stated that the techniques presented should be not be utilized by speech-language pathologists working independently.

The Committee unanimously denied the course.

B. Consider Appeal Regarding the Denial for Continuing Professional Development Course Credit:

1. **"The Explosive Child" (Follow-up Information Provider Per Committee Request)**
2. **"Depression Versus Dementia: A Guide for Clinicians"**
3. **"Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly"**

Mr. Gerratt introduced the three course appeals before the Committee.

Mr. Gerratt stated that the course "The Explosive Child" is intended to help families and medical professionals deal with difficult children. He stated that it does not appear to be a course designed for professional health care providers.

Ms. Grimes stated that none of the learning objectives outlined in the course materials are related to speech-language pathology.

Mr. Gerratt stated that the licensee appealing the course "Depression Versus Dementia: Guide for Clinicians and "Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly" wrote a compelling letter explaining the two courses' relevance to her professional practice.

Ms. Raggio stated that speech-language pathologists or audiologists would not be involved in diagnosing a patient with dementia and/or depression and that a patient that presented with symptoms of either should be referred to a physician for a medical evaluation.

Mr. Gerratt stated that speech and language therapy for an individual who suffered from either condition would likely be ineffective with more severe cases. Therefore, one's professional judgement may be in question if they were to continue treating an individual suffering from dementia or depression.

Ms. Washington stated that it is not uncommon for individuals with dementia or depression to have difficulty swallowing and that treatment by a speech-language pathologist would be appropriate.

The Committee discussed whether granting approval of certain medical courses would be acceptable depending on the setting of the licensee. It was decided that, regardless of the practitioner's setting, all courses should be evaluated based on their relevance to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology, and that the application of the regulations should be consistent.

The Committee determined that the course was a general medical course that was not specifically related to the practices of speech-language pathology or audiology.

Mr. Gerratt inquired about the action that will be taken against licensees who do not successfully pass the audit.

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided the Committee with statistics on the number of licensees who have not passed the CPD audit. She stated that several of the individuals recorded have not responded to the Board's audit request letters and further indicated that many of the licensees are 200+ days delinquent in responding to the Board. She stated that since this is the first CPD audit, and since some licensees are still confused about the interpretation of the regulations, she has not yet issued citations to these individuals. However, she is concerned that those licensees who have not responded in any fashion to the Board's repeated requests are disregarding the Board's authority and should be sanctioned.

The Committee agreed that individuals who have not responded to the CPD audit should be issued a citation.

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the course entitled Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly participated in by the same licensee may have an indirect relevance to her license. She stated that although she denied the course when she initially reviewed it, she has reconsidered the denial in light of the legal and ethical relevance of the course. She stated that the course may qualify as an "indirect client care" course in that licensees are mandated reporters for any suspected abuse.

Mr. Ritter stated that all licensed practitioners are required to report abuse and that failure to do so would be a violation of the Practice Act.

Ms. Grimes indicated that anyone holding a license should be aware of the mandatory reporting provisions at the time the license is issued.

Mr. Till and Ms. Washington pointed out that legal issues pertaining to health professionals are often confusing and are continually changing.

The Committee determined that the course "Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly" has indirect application to licensees as it covers pertinent legal and ethical issues.

C. Appeal of Committee's Denial of Course Entitled "Animal Assisted Therapy"

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that this was an appeal to the Committee's previous denial of the course.

Mr. Ritter indicated that there is a procedural problem with the Committee reconsidering the previous denial as the regulations state that the Committee's decision is final. He stated that there would be an avenue for an appeal if the decision was issued as a result of an enforcement proceeding.

IV. Review Continuing Professional Development Provider Application Submitted by the California Association for Behavior Analysts.

Mr. Gerratt introduced the discussion of the continuing professional development provider application submitted by the California Association for Behavior Analysts (Cal ABA).

Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the information before the Committee is the operational plan submitted by the Cal ABA including a letter of support from a licensed speech-language pathologist regarding the course's relevance to the practice of speech-language pathology.

Mr. Till stated that the therapeutic work of speech-language pathology should be aimed at changing behavior and that the overt use of applied analysis of behavior can be an instrumental tool in speech-language pathology therapy.

Ms. Del Mugnaio inquired about the courses presented by the Cal ABA and whether the courses are directed towards training speech-language pathologists in behavior modification techniques.

Mr. Till stated that the information presented was not sufficient to make a clear determination of practice relevance but that it was likely that some courses offered by the Cal ABA would be applicable to the practice of speech-language pathology.

Ms. Del Mugnaio asked Mr. Till to assist her in formulating a letter to the Cal ABA requesting additional information about the courses the provider intends to offer as CPD for speech-language pathologists.

M/S/C: Grimes/Gerratt

The Committee voted to uphold the denial of the courses presented with the exception of the course entitled "Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly" as the course qualified under existing regulations defining indirect client care topics. The Committee further voted to write a denial letter to the California Association for Behavior Analysts denying the existing continuing professional development materials, but providing the organization with information on behavioral topics that may be relevant to speech-language pathology, and providing the organization an opportunity to resubmit additional course information.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson Gerratt adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer